

Message Text

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42

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 NEA-10 CCO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00

DODE-00 CIAE-00 USSS-00 INRE-00 NSAE-00 DRC-01 PM-07

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 ACDA-19 IO-15 OMB-01 AID-20 MC-02 IGA-02 /175 W

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P R 131245Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 347

INFO AMCONSUL CASABLANCA

AMCONSUL TANGIER

USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USCINCEUR

COMNAVTRACOM KENITRA

COMNAVCOMMSTA SIDI YAHYA

C O N F I D E N T I A L RABAT 4666

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS XF XI MO

SUBJECT: MOROCCAN SITREP AS MIDEAST WAR ENTERS EIGHT DAY

1. WITH WAR IN ITS EIGHT DAY, MOROCCO REMAINED CALM AND NO INCIDENTS OF ACTIONS AGAINST AMERICANS HAVE BEEN REPORTED. MOROCCANS CONTINUE TO GO ABOUT THEIR RAMADAN BUSINESS PRETTY MUCH AS USUAL.

2. AT SAME TIME, CONCERN ABOUT WAR REMAINS HIGH, AND REPORTS OF US ASSISTANCE TO ISRAEL ARE PREOCCUPYING GOM. RABAT 4665 REPORTS ATTITUDE OF FOREIGN MINISTRY. BELGIAN AMBASSADOR ALSO HAS TOLD US THAT HE AND OTHER EUROPEAN AMBASSADORS (SPECIFICALLY INCLUDING ITALIAN, FRENCH, DUTCH, BRITISH AND SPANISH) HAVE BEEN CALLED IN TO FOREIGN MINISTRY AND ASKED TO ASK THEIR GOVERNMENTS TO APPEAL
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TO USG NOT TO AIRLIFT EQUIPMENT TO ISRAEL.

3. HEIGHTENED GOM CONCERN NOW APPEARING IN PRO-GOVERNMENT PRESS. IN OCT 13 EDITION, LE MATIN, WHICH UNTIL NOW HAS REFRAINED FROM PUBLISHING UNCONFIRMED PRESS REPORTS OF AMERICAN ASSISTANCE TO ISRAEL, CARRIED ON FRONT-PAGE REPORT PUBLISHED IN THE MADRID NEWSPAPER, YA, THAT 150 AMERICAN PILOTS, VETERANS OF VIETNAM, TRANSITED MADRID ON WAY TO ISRAEL. PAPER ALSO SAID THAT EUROPEAN COUNTRIES WERE AIDING ISRAEL SEMI-OVERTLY BY SENDING REINFORCEMENTS, DISGUISED AS TOURISTS, RESERVISTS AND EMIGRANTS, TO ISRAEL BY THE THOUSANDS. LE MATIN ALSO MENTIONED FOR FIRST TIME REPORT OF EL AL BOEING TRANSPORTING ROCKETS FROM US TO ISRAEL. SEMI-OFFICIAL AL ANBA AGAIN GAVE PROMINENT COVERAGE TO REPORT OF AMERICAN AID TO ISRAEL; ITS LEAD HEADLINE READ QUOTE EGYPT PROGRESSES, SYRIA HOLD AND AMERICA MOVES UNQUOTE. OPPOSITION ISTIQLALI DAILY L'OPINION CONTINUED ITS VERY VITRIOLIC, ANTI-AMERICAN LINE, BOTH EDITORIALY AND IN NEWS TREATMENT; ITS ARABIC COUNTERPART, AL ALAM, WAS MORE RESTRAINED. OPPOSITION PAPERS CONTINUE TO REFRAIN FROM MENTION OF US FACILITIES AT KENITRA AS POSSIBLY PLAYING ROLE IN FIGHTING. OBVIOUSLY, GOM HAS DECLARED KENITRA OFF LIMITS.

4. PRESS REMAINS DETERMINEDLY OPTIMISTIC ON COURSE OF WAR, AND ALL PAPERS GIVE HEAVY PLAY TO MAP STORY ON HEROISM OF MOROCCAN TROOPS FIGHTING NEAR MT. HERMON IN SYRIA. STORY SAYS THAT MOROCCANS HAD TRAINED INTENSIVELY DURING THEIR FOUR MONTHS ON GOLAN HEIGHTS, AND ARE THUS PROOF AGAINST UNDERHANDED ZIONIST TACTICS, NOTABLY USE OF BULL HORN ANNOUNCEMENTS THAT SYRIAN ARMY HAD ABANDONED THEM TO THEIR FATE. FOR AUTHENTICITY, MAP CITES L'AURE AND LE FIGARO AS REPORTING THAT 1,600 MOROCCANS, FIGHTING ALONGSIDE 3,000 PALESTINIANS, HAD HELD THEIR POSITIONS AND DELIVERED QUOTE MURDEROUS BLOWS UNQUOTE TO ENEMY.

5. FINAL POINT OF INTEREST HERE IS THAT, IN APPARENT ARAB SOLIDARITY MOVE, MOROCCAN RADIO HAS ANNOUNCED CESSATION OF ANTI-QADHAFI PROPAGANDA BROADCASTS.

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6. EMBASSY HAS TAKEN STEPS TO MEET GOM'S CHARGES THAT WE HAVE INTERVENED IN WAR, AND TO COUNTER ANTI-AMERICAN PRESS CAMPAIGN. RABAT 4665 DESCRIBES APPROACH TO FOREIGN MINISTRY. ALSO, EMBOFF MADE DEMARCHE ON OCT 12 TO ISTIQLALI FRIEND CONCERNING L'OPINION'S VIRULENT ANTI-AMERICAN COVERAGE OF WAR SAYING INFLAMMATORY EDITORIALS AND REPORTS COULD INCITE SOME MOROCCANS TO TAKE ACTION (I.E., AGAINST AMERICANS) THAT OUR GOOD FRIENDS IN

RESPONSIBLE PARTY LEADERSHIP WOULD REGRET. ISTIQLALI
EXPRESSED UNDERSTANDING AND SAID HE WOULD MAKE OUR CONCERN
KNOWN TO PAPER'S DIRECTOR AND TO PARTY PRESIDENT ALLAL AL FASSI
(HIS FATHER-IN-LAW). WE DO NOT EXPECT DEMARCHE WILL HAVE
MUCH OR ANY EFFECT (TOO LATE IN ANY CASE FOR TODAY'S
EDITION), BUT WE BELIEVED IT WORTH TRYING ALL THE SAME.
PARKER

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